**Unit Two: Social Issues, Technology and Teenagers Name**

**Unit Objectives:**

1. To examine the issue of bullying among teenagers by discussing who it happens to, where, when, and why
2. To discuss the issue of teen suicide and examine tactics for prevention and how to help a friend
3. To discuss the impact of technology on a teen’s social, physical and emotional health

**Assessments: This unit will be assessed with a writing assignment on 10/1**

**Packet: This packet will be collected and assessed as part of the**

**“Unit Packet” component of your overall grade.**

**Homework: You are reminded that if you do not have an assignment completed on the assigned due date (collected or checked) the maximum grade you can receive is a 50 until the end of that unit.**

**Unit Two Syllabus: Social Issues, Technology and Teenagers**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Day** | **Lesson** | **Assignment** |
| **9/26 &**  **9/27** | Bullying Statistics: Is It An Issue?  Video: 20/20: Bullied to Death  Discussion: What problems can bullying lead to?  Suicide Awareness and Prevention  Activity: “I Am Willing To…” | Complete the pro/con list related to driving and cellphones AND Read the article “High Tech Devices Help Drivers Put Down Phone” on pgs. 4 and 5 and respond to the questions |
| **9/28** | Brainstorm/Discussion: Cellphones & Driving  Video: The Last Text  Mock Activity: Driving and Texting  Cell Phone Blocking Technology: Good or Bad? | Complete the Pro/Con chart and answer the reflection ?’s on pg. 6 |
| **10/1** | Assignment: Can Texting & Cellphone Use Really Hurt You? Online Discussion Assignment | Pgs. 7 & 8 |
| **10/2** | Online Discussion Assignment |  |
| **10/3 & 10/4** | YAAPP Presentation: Jake & Caroline |  |

**Bullied To Death: 20/20 Special Report by Dateline**

**Please respond to each question as it relates to the film and your general thoughts:**

1. Please write down any general responses/thoughts you have to the film. What were some of the big issues that arose from bullying in the film? What issues do you see resulting from bullying?

2. Try to characterize the bully. How would you describe the typical bully:

* What group(s) are they a part of?
* What types of things would they say or bully another about?
* Why do you think those people do that to others?

3. How do you think the internet contributes to bullying? Should social networking sites be shut down?

4.What can you do to prevent this from happening OR what are you willing to do if you saw it happening?

**ARE YOU WILLING TO STAND UP FOR SOMEONE, EVEN IF IT IS SOMEONE YOU DON’T KNOW? WOULD YOU WANT A BYSTANDER TO DO IT FOR YOU?**

**Group Brainstorming Activity: Issues Related to Suicide in Teens**

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| --- |
| Please make a list of warning signs that a person may be suicidal: |

|  |
| --- |
| What signs might indicate that the threat is IMMINENT: |

|  |
| --- |
| Imagine a friend tells you today (over facebook and after school) that they have been feeling suicidal lately, make a list of what you would do and what you shouldn’t do.  What to Do:  What Not to Do: |

Before reading the article, please complete the brainstorm below: Should people (teens & adults) be allowed to use their cellphones while driving a vehicle?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Reasons to Support Cellphone Use** | **Reasons Against Cellphone Use** |
|  |  |

**Your Opinion**: Write a brief statement with at least one supporting fact/idea indicating why cellphones should be allowed or not allowed while driving: (Don’t write “I think”, “I believe”, “In my opinion”)

[[he New York Times](http://www.nytimes.com/)](http://www.nytimes.com/)

Top of Form

Bottom of Form

# High-Tech Devices Help Drivers Put Down Phone

# By SAM GROBART

Dede Haskins’s cellphone has been her constant companion for more than a decade. And she has always considered herself a careful driver — even using a hands-free set so she could keep both hands on the wheel. But after missing one too many exits because she was distracted by a phone call, Ms. Haskins decided it was time to get tough with herself. So she signed up for ZoomSafer, a free service that uses her phone’s GPS sensors to determine whether she’s at driving speeds, and then disables her cellphone until she stops the car.

“I really love my cellphone,” said Ms. Haskins, the chief executive of a software company in Washington. “But I know I’m not driving safely if I’m using it while behind the wheel.”Of course, there is a simpler, no-cost solution to limiting phone use while driving: the off button. But going cold turkey is hard for many Americans who have become addicted to their gadgets. And so technology companies are trying to solve a problem caused by technology with more technology.

But the solutions reflect markedly different answers to a simple question: How much can drivers be trusted? One group of companies assume that some people know they can’t help themselves, and therefore want a service to automatically disable their cellphone when it is in a moving car.

But other companies say the habit can be made safer with hands-free technology. [Ford](http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/business/companies/ford_motor_company/index.html?inline=nyt-org) and [Microsoft](http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/business/companies/microsoft_corporation/index.html?inline=nyt-org), for example, are selling systems that rely on voice commands to dial phones. Hands-free devices are far more popular. But it is cellphone-muzzling technology that has caught the eye of large auto insurers. That’s because some studies show that talking on phones while driving is dangerous, even if the driver is using a headset and has both hands on the wheel. One insurer has even said it will offer discounts to customers who use a call-blocking service.

A number of fledgling companies like ZoomSafer, Aegis Mobility and obdEdge employ systems that place restrictions on phones based on the phone’s GPS signal, data from the car itself or from nearby cellphone towers. Any incoming calls are then routed to voice mail or a message explaining that the phone’s owner is driving. Exceptions can be made for certain numbers. Passengers in cars can override such systems, but in many cases doing so automatically sends an e-mail message to the account administrator — say, a parent or employer — alerting them that the cellphone is in use.

Employers that want to make sure their drivers abide by bans on cellphone use are obvious potential customers. Community Coffee, a Baton Rouge, La., coffee roaster and distributor, has had such a ban on its 400 trucks for three years, which the company says has helped reduce its accident rate by 30 percent. It started testing a call-blocking system from obdEdge, called Cellcontrol, in August. ObdEdge charges companies $85, plus about $5 monthly, for each vehicle equipped with Cellcontrol.

“We realized we had to go beyond education and policy,” said Jamey LeBlanc, the risk manager for Community Coffee. “You’re going against human nature here, so you need something that works independently of that.”In effect, addiction to gadgets is creating a new gadget industry.“If we could control ourselves, we wouldn’t need any of this technology,” said Donald Powers, a managing partner at obdEdge. “We know it’s such a bad habit, but we crave being connected.”

In 2008, 918,000 hands-free systems were installed in cars, according to the Consumer Electronics Association. By the end of 2009, the industry group estimates, that figure will climb to 1.6 million systems. In many cases, hands-free kits are packaged with other options that together cost around $1,000. “We are trying to take what people are doing and make it safer,” said Doug VanDagens, the director of Ford’s Sync project. “Voice provides the safest options and keeps the driver’s eyes on the road.”

Manufacturers of such systems argue that their products make driving safer. As proof, they point to a [Virginia Tech](http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/organizations/v/virginia_polytechnic_institute_and_state_university/index.html?inline=nyt-org) Transportation Institute study published this summer that concluded that hands-free conversations were only a minor distraction to drivers.

But not everyone agrees that this technology is the safest option.

Studies from the [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/organizations/n/national_highway_traffic_safety_administration/index.html?inline=nyt-org) and the [Insurance Institute for Highway Safety](http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/organizations/i/insurance_institute_for_highway_safety/index.html?inline=nyt-org), for example, show that drivers are four times more likely to have an accident if they are talking on the phone — hands-free or not — while driving. The reason, researchers say, is that drivers often become engrossed in their conversation, rather than focusing on driving, even if their hands are on the wheel. “Once a conversation begins, we don’t see a difference between hand-held and hands-free,” says Adrian Lund, president of the institute. The Nationwide insurance company said last month that its customers who sign up for the call-blocking service from Aegis Mobility would be eligible for a discount of around 5 percent off their annual premium. (Aegis has agreed to provide Nationwide a list of policyholders who are using the service.)

“Clearly, in addition to saving lives, it will lower auto-insurance costs,” said Nationwide’s safety officer, Bill Windsor.

State Farm Insurance, the nation’s largest auto insurer, is also studying call-blocking systems. By contrast, no insurer offers such discounts on hands-free systems.

“We’re not convinced,” Mr. Windsor said, “that hands-free is safer.”

**What do you think? Should parents use cell phone blocking technology for their teen drivers? Why or why not? Write a thoughtful paragraph with reasons to support your viewpoint.**

**Considering the Impact of Technology on Teens: Clearly cellphone use while driving is an issue, but what other issues do cellphones create?**? Please consider: physical health, social health/issues, mental/emotional health, financial issues, educational issues, family issues, relationships, etc.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Pros of Cellphones** | **Cons of Cellphones** |
|  |  |

**Examining School Policies: If you were just hired to be the principal of Gorham High School, what rules/regulations would you create surrounding cell phone use. Please be prepared to discuss why for each rule/regulation.**

**Do you think families should have rules surrounding cell phone use in the home? Why or why not? And, what rules occur in your homes, if any?**

http://up.nytimes.com/?d=0/17/&t=6&s=0&ui=0&r=http%3a%2f%2fwww%2enytimes%2ecom%2f2009%2f11%2f22%2ftechnology%2f22distracted%2ehtml%3f%5fr%3d0&u=www%2enytimes%2ecom%2f2009%2f11%2f22%2ftechnology%2f22distracted%2ehtml%3f%5fr%3d0%26pagewanted%3dprinthttp://www.nytimes.com/adx/bin/clientside/18d38225Q2FoooQ5CUSHRQ26SXoRQ5CS-Q2AiulXgSF_lD3r3YQ2FYU3r@Q26Y3Q5CD,r**Can Texting and Cell Phone Use Really Hurt You?**

Assignment: Each student will find an article that specifically relates to a current health issue addressing the issue of texting/cellphone use among teens. After finding an article that sparks your interest, you will post a summary and opinion of the article on the wiki and then comment on another student’s original post.

**Potential Topics:** - Thumb injury - Neck/Back injury - Walking injury - Changes to the Brain

**-** Loss of Communication Skills - Addiction - Constantly Connected

**No Car Accident Articles!!**

**Online Discussion Assignment: Between Monday (10/1) and Tuesday (10/2) each student must make 2 posts following the guidelines listed below.**  
  
**Directions:** FIRST: Make sure you put your name at the beginning of your post (for grading purposes)

**Post #1: You must make one original or New Post:**

First, travel to the wiki and then click on the link on the left for the class period that you are in.

To make an original post, click on the small icon to the right of the “Edit” button at the top of the page. Then click: “New Post” and enter a relevant subject title so your classmates will know whether or not they want to comment on your post. Then write your message in the box below the subject line. A subject title like “I send 25,000 texts a month!” will likely get more comments than “Cellphones and Injuries” (snoreville☺)

**The Post Must Include:**

* A paragraph **summary of the article** you selected. Summary should be clear, specific, and provide a thorough depiction of the entire article. **The summary should answer the questions of who, what, where, when, and why.**

**Example:** On July 19th, 2010(**when)**, the city of Portland, ME(**where)** enacted a ban on smoking(**what)** in outside dining areas of all restaurants and bars to limit secondhand smoke exposure for non-smoking patrons.(**why)**. This ban will begin immediately and likely will impact smokers, non-smokers, and restaurant owners. (**who)**

* A paragraph that **discusses your opinion** of the article and issue being addressed: Do you agree, disagree? Does this make you consider your own habits or the habits of friends/family? Implications for society, new legislation, or teen growth and development?

**Post #2: Comment on another student’s article summary and opinion statement**

**The Comment/Post Should:**

* Be a paragraph that addresses your classmate’s ideas or the information presented in the article, but also offer and discuss your own opinion about the issue being discussed.

**Grading:** The rubric on the next page will be used for grading purposes. Posts will be graded on a thirty point scale. This assignment will count as a quiz grade.